Field firing station of army in Jawahar Nagar, Hyderabad

309. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Army is having a field firing station covering an area of about 1000 acres of land near Jawahar Nagar at Shamirpet, in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this field firing station is surrounded by habitation;

(c) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh is persistently requesting for shifting of this station; and

(d) if so, what steps Government has taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) Lake Line Rifle Ranges near Jawahar Nagar at Shamirpet covering an area of approximately 1100 acres of land, the only firing range available in the station since 1964 for training personnel in uniform, has slowly been surrounded by increased population of Hyderabad city.

The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has raised this issue in his discussions with the Raksha Mantri. Government of Andhra Pradesh, who have been approached for an alternative range, has not yet indicated any alternative site for the range.

Paralysed state of decision making in three services

310. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the admission by Defence Minister that decision making in the three services had been almost paralysed in the past seven months as reported in 'Statesman' (Kolkata) dated 5th November, 2001;